

**Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes**  
**Jorgenson's Inn and Suites**  
**1720 11th Ave, Helena, MT**  
**September 26-27, 2013**

Members in Attendance: Marilyn Davis, Theresa Baldry, Chris Bilant, Doug Dellwo, Dan Laughlin, Dave Marzolf, Tara Moore, Laura Straus (for Tessie Rose Bailey), Diana Tavary, Barbara Varnum, Marvin Williams (a.m.), Tia Davis (Friday)

Excused Members: Tessie Rose Bailey, Clarena Brockie, Tia Davis (Thursday), Dawn Piazzzi, Carolyn Prill, Wendy Studt (Thursday), Lily Wahl

Non-Members in Attendance: Dick Trerise, Frank Podobnik, John Copenhaver, Patty Muir, Ann Gilkey, Steve York, Mary Gallagher, Mary Graff, Marlene Wallis

**Thursday, September 26, 2013**

Chairperson Marilyn Davis called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

Following review of the Proposed Agenda, Doug Dellwo moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Theresa Baldry seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the minutes of the June 27, 2013, meeting. Theresa Baldry requested the minutes be corrected to note that she was not in attendance at the June 27, 2013, meeting. Diana Tavary moved to accept the minutes with the correction, Doug Dellwo seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the June 26, 2013, meeting were approved with the correction.

**Special Education Division Report**

Frank Podobnik introduced Erin Butts. Erin is the School-Based Mental Health Coordinator for the Special Education Division.

Frank announced that Dale Kimmet was selected as the Unit Manager for the School Improvement/Compliance Monitoring Unit.

The hiring of an Administrative Assistant will take place soon and the Division will have a full staff. There are 16 full-time staff at the OPI and 80 part-time staff throughout the state. The division works for all kids, which includes regular classroom students.

At the beginning of June, there will be a changed process for Level of Determination. Frank will talk more on this later.

**OPI Report**

Steve York, Assistant Superintendent for the Department of Education Services, told the Panel that he has been extremely busy, on the road 19 of the last 30 days.

The MBI My Voice survey was completed by 28,000 students, grades 6-12, last year. The surveys are provided to schools at no cost. We are now in the 4<sup>th</sup> year and have 15 districts signed up for the survey.

What has been known as the General Education Development (GED) program will now be known as the Montana High School Equivalency Program (HISEP). They will be computer-based test centers.

### **Advisory Panel Orientation**

John Copenhaver, Director, Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE), Utah State University, conducted the Advisory Panel Member Orientation.

He informed the Panel that the orientation provides training and information regarding their purpose and functions as an effective panel.

John went over the agenda with the Panel members.

The Panel was informed of the 10 Hot Topics in Special Education. They are State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Indicator 17; Common Core Standards; Sequestrian Cuts; Results Driven Accountability (RDA); Fiscal Accountability; ESEA Waivers; School Climate, Safe Schools and Bullying; Virtual Special Education; Autism; and Mental Health.

John told the Panel that Montana is the only state where the Panel and CSPD meet together.

John led the Panel members through the “Primer for Panel Members.” The primer educates the members of all aspects of becoming a Panel member.

### **Adjourn—4:30 p.m.**

Diana Tavary moved to adjourn for the day, Barbara Varnum seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Panel adjourned at 4:30 p.m. for the day.

### **Friday, September 27, 2013**

#### **Parents, Let’s Unite for Kids (PLUK)**

The PLUK is focusing on adults with Autism. They are setting up a pilot program for adults with Autism, which could result in the adults ending up with a good job. At this time they are looking at three months to learn a new skill (might not work because three months is not enough time).

### **CSPD**

Susan Bailey-Anderson introduced Erin Butts. Erin is the School Mental Health specialist for the Professional Development Unit. Erin will develop the OPI School Mental Health System, which includes working with DPHHS and the new rule implementation for the Comprehensive School and Community Treatment Services (CSCT). The new DPHHS rule for CSCT requires that schools have a positive behavior intervention and supports team, PBIS/MBI. Erin will also continue with the School Mental Health Community of Practice and monthly webinars. She will also be working collaboratively with Wrap Around Services in the state.

Susan presented an update on programs within the Professional Development Unit.

The Project REAL: Responsive Education for All Learners is a multi-tiered approach to school-wide support. The project is in its third year and a second cohort of schools has just been recruited for training. The project's goal is to increase the number of schools successfully implementing Montana's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). Susan said that communities and families are involved in order to meet the diverse and ongoing needs of students.

Susan informed the Panel of the Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR) Center's technical assistance that is designed to help states, higher education and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) create coherent professional learning systems that provide "opportunities to learn for teachers and leaders." She suggested that the Panel members access the CEEDAR Web site, [www.ceedar.org](http://www.ceedar.org).

The University of Montana, University of Montana-Western and Montana State University-Billings are the three universities that are partnering with the OPI to review courses and how general education teachers are being prepared to work with students with disabilities and other at-risk students. The Higher Education Consortium, HEC, recommended and supported this opportunity. Montana (OPI Divisions, i.e., Common Core and Special Education) applied for a technical assistance grant with the CEEDAR Center and received it. This Technical Assistance grant requires collaboration across the OPI and the University System.

### **Call for Public Comments**

Chairperson Marilyn Davis announced the Call for Public Comments. There were no public comments.

### **Other**

Meeting Dates:

January 23-24, 2014: Review the Annual Performance Report (APR) indicator by indicator.

May 1-2, 2014

### **Adjourn**

Dave Marzolf moved to adjourn the meeting, Doug Dellwo seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.